

North Christian Church - Pastor Ed Collins

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12/31/15 - The Gospel, Salvation, and Sanctification - Part 33

Donald Grey Barnhouse

"If you will turn to the God of force and power in nature and acknowledge fully your creature subservience to Him, you will find Him immediately as the God of grace coming to you to meet your every need."

Synthesizing...

- The Gospel and Salvation
- Positional Sanctification
- The Holy Spirit's Ministry (at/after salvation, working with the Word)
- Experiential/Progressive Sanctification

Romans 1

- v1-17: the glory of salvation and spiritual life
- v18-32: the tragedy of unbelief and spiritual death

The Magnitude of the Gap

The difference between a man's self-righteousness and God's righteousness is as high as the heavens are above the earth (Is 55:8-9, 64:6).

God's Sovereignty

God's creatures are accountable to Him. That is a universal fact, whether or not His creatures agree (confess) with Him or not! (Ps 1; Jas 4:12; cp 2Sa 24:12)

God's Sovereignty

We are accountable to God in every way, beginning with our allegiance, and including baseline things like morality.

God's Sovereignty

Not only does the Lord claim sovereignty, it is His RIGHT to claim it, given Who He is (e.g.: Creator).

"power"

from dunamis - means ability to perform; for the believer, power to achieve by applying the Lord's inherent abilities; is needed in every scene of life to really grow in sanctification and prepare for heaven (glorification), used 120 times in the NT; where we get the English word "dynamite"

2Ti 3:7

always learning and never able [dunamai - same root as in Ro 1:16 = "God-given power"] to come to the knowledge of the truth.

Sanctification

Depends WHOLLY upon the dynamic [dunamai] power of the Lord God to deliver us! Any viewpoint or attempt to refute this is folly.

Self-Sanctification Is Folly

It is much more stupid for man to propose he win a battle of wills with God than a cockroach proposing he can win an arm-wrestling contest with a man.

Sanctification

We cannot fully learn about sanctification without a proper understanding of the Gospel, for they are essentially one and the same reality. God's promise to sanctify us is as good as complete the moment He saves us.

The Righteous Live By Faith

Faith in God's promises are only undermined by the temptation to doubt them. Such is Satan's desire, to sow doubt. The fact remains that you are already a crowned victor in Christ!

Living the Gospel Reality

Ask yourself: Where is the explosive power to live by faith found?...in the Gospel (Ro 1:16)! Sanctification, then, is much more about living in a reality than merely doing things. One precedes the other.

1Co 2:2

For I determined to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and Him crucified.

Grace Realities

Salvation and sanctification are simultaneously awarded as "realities". In other words, if a person is saved, they are sanctified (positionally) and guaranteed sanctification (experientially). To God, these are simultaneous realities.

Sowing Doubt

If you've lost sight of the Gospel, you've lost sight of the victory! Satan's strategy is to distract all humans from the Gospel, "captivating" them (ala 2Ti 3:6), instilling a bondage in them that shouldn't exist.

Religion's Quest

Satan promotes religion in his world in order to frustrate God's plan for His children, which is to bring glory to Himself by sanctifying them.

ONLY God Can Sanctify Man

If you lose sight of the Gospel, you will doubt this basic truth and adopt a form of self-sanctification eventually.

Righteousness (dikaiosune)

- A characteristic of God (He always does what is right/just, never wrong/unjust); His righteousness is consistent with His other attributes
- His Method of Salvation (through TLJC, God saves; His justice being satisfied)
- Imputed Righteousness (man's good standing with God "in Christ")

Literal Translation of Ro 1:17

- "A righteousness from God is being revealed..."
- Refers to a judicial (forensic) reality where God imputes "a righteousness" to a believer (ala Php 3:9); does not refer to God's righteousness, specifically

J. Vernon McGee on "righteousness from God"

"The righteousness he [Paul in Ro 1:17] is talking about is what God demands, and it is what God provides - it is a righteousness that is from God."

"is revealed"

refers to the unveiling of the fruit of the righteousness given to believers from God at salvation; God sanctifies "from faith to faith", for it is BY faith that a man shall live as a Christian!